

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-19, 21, 23-29, 31, 34-40, and 42-49 were previously pending in the application. Claims 6, 23, 45, and 49 are canceled; claims 1, 7, 18, 24, and 38 are amended; and new claims 50-52 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-2, 4, 7-19, 21, 24-29, 31, 34-40, and 42-44, 46-48, and 50-52 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

In paragraph 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 8, 12-19, 21, 25, 29, 31, 34-38, 45, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan in view of Rusu. In paragraph 3, the Examiner rejected claims 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan in view of Rusu, and in further view of Parruck. In paragraph 4, the Examiner allowed claims 42-44 and 46-48. In paragraph 5, the Examiner objected to claims 6-7, 9-11, 23-24, and 26-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 6. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 6 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 2, 4, 7-17, and 39 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 23. As such, currently amended claim 18 is equivalent to previously pending claim 23 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 18 is allowable. Since claims 19, 21, 24-29, 31, 34-37, and 40 depend variously from claim 18, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 38 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 6. For the same reasons that previously pending claim 6 was allowable, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 38 is also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the rejections of claims under Section 103(a) have been overcome.

New Claims 50-52

Support for new claims 50-52 is found in claims 42-44, respectively. For the same reasons that claims 42-44 are allowable, the Applicant submits that new claims 50-52 are also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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